

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-45 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 7. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are allowable over the cited reference, and request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 and 8-45.

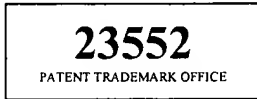
Claim Rejections

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ross et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,608,628). The subject matter from claim 7, which was indicated as allowable by the Examiner, has been incorporated into claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, overcomes the rejection for at least the same reasons as claim 7. Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants respectfully submit reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection, and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Conclusion

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 9-45 and for indicating that claims 7 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have cancelled claim 7 and incorporated the subject matter of claim 7 into claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 7. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 1 and is allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.



Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. H. Batzli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Date: February 16, 2006

Brian H. Batzli
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BHB/JKS:ck